

Cohen Campbell Fish Hatchery is a key component of the SCDNR's Freshwater Fisheries Management program. Combined with regional biological survey offices, state public fishing lakes and four other hatcheries, the SCDNR is providing South Carolina's citizens and visitors with the best recreational fishing opportunity possible while protecting and conserving our aquatic resources.



For Additional Information, Contact:
Hatchery Manager
Cohen Campbell Fish Hatchery
2726 Fish Hatchery Rd.
West Columbia, SC 29172
Phone: 803-755-2070

Please call ahead to schedule a tour.

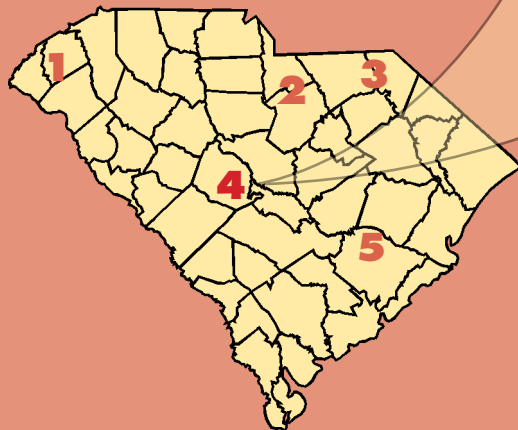


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State Fish Hatcheries

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1 Walhalla
198 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Hwy 107N
Mt. Rest, SC 29664
864-638-2866</p> | <p>4 Cohen Campbell
2726 Fish Hatchery Rd.
West Columbia, SC
29172
803-755-2070</p> |
| <p>2 Spring Stevens
5290 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Heath Springs, SC
29058
803-273-3306</p> | <p>5 Dennis Wildlife Center
305 Black Oak Rd.
Bonneau, SC 29431
843-825-3387</p> <p>and</p> <p>Jack D. Bayless
264 Platt Rd.
St Stephen, SC 29749
843-567-3286</p> |
| <p>3 Cheraw
433 Fish Hatchery Ln.
Cheraw, SC 29520
843-537-7628</p> | |

Cohen Campbell

South Carolina Fish Hatchery



DNR

<http://hatcheries.dnr.sc.gov>

COHEN CAMPBELL FISH HATCHERY

What We Do

Operated by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), this fish hatchery is one of five in South Carolina serving a vital role in the management of our state's fishery resources. The Cohen Campbell Fish Hatchery is a warm water fish hatchery, producing approximately 1 million fish annually for stocking in South Carolina's public lakes and rivers to enhance recreational fishing activities.



History

The site of the current Cohen Campbell Fish Hatchery was a National Guard military base in 1913 called Camp Styx. In the early 1920s, the base was closed, but the name persisted. When the fish hatchery was constructed in 1935 with funds from the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps, it was also known as Camp Styx. Over the course of the next 50 years, the hatchery was also known as the Richardson Hatchery and for many years, Styx Hatchery. In 1985, the Pine Ridge facility was renamed and dedicated as the Cohen Campbell Fish Hatchery in honor of a deceased manager who had provided 31 years of service to the hatchery program.

Hatchery Facts

Species Cultured:

bluegill, redear sunfish, largemouth bass, striped bass, channel catfish, robust redhorse and American shad



Production Facilities: 14 production ponds, 1 reservoir pond and 1 fish house equipped with tanks, aeration systems and filtration systems. These facilities are used for rearing, holding and preparing fish for stocking in the wild. The fish house also contains the grass carp sterility testing laboratory.

Water Source: 1 reservoir pond of 3.5 acres which is maintained by surface water and from six onsite wells.

Acres of Water: 14 production ponds with 11.85 acres of water

Note: This facility also performs all of the grass carp sterility testing and permitting for South Carolina to ensure that only sterile grass carp are stocked in our state's waters.

Hatchery Production Cycle

The basic requirement of any fish hatchery is a dependable supply of suitable water. Ponds for spawning and rearing fish are of various sizes, ranging from 1/10 to 2 acres. Water depth in each pond is from 6 to 8 feet and each pond is constructed for independent filling and draining.

Spawning ponds are filled starting in early spring and stocked with adult fish. Newly hatched fish called fry are removed from the spawning ponds and restocked into rearing ponds. These ponds have been heavily fertilized to develop microscopic food organisms to promote rapid growth. Only one fish species is reared per pond. Hatchery personnel monitor water quality parameters, such as dissolved oxygen and pH daily, as well as maintaining water levels.

Various sizes of each species are cultured and stocked per requests from the Regional Fisheries Biologists.

Once fish reach the desired size, hatchery staff then begin the process of harvesting the fish. The catch basin is swept clean and the pond is slowly drained, forcing the fish into the catch basin. The catch basins are engineered to supply a constant flow of fresh water to support the fish until ready for harvest. Once the fish are contained within the catch basin, they are easily netted and hauled in specially outfitted hatchery trucks for stocking in state waters located from the mountains to the coast.

American shad broodstock are collected from the wild in the early spring and brought to Cohen Campbell for spawning. Both males and females are placed in large round tanks where spawning takes place. Eggs drain out of the large tanks into a collection basket for removal. Eggs incubate in jars for 3 to 4 days until hatch. American shad larvae are OTC (oxytetracycline)-marked at day 3 and stocked into the wild when they reach an age of 4 to 5 days.

Grass Carp are a non-native and potentially invasive fish that are used in South Carolina to control aquatic vegetation. It is illegal to buy, possess, stock or sell grass carp unless it has been certified as sterile and permitted by SCDNR. The Grass Carp Testing Lab at Cohen Campbell certifies all the grass carp that are permitted and sold in South Carolina.

